

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Spencer C. Patterson, Registration number 43,849 on 10 February 2009.
- The application has been amended as follows:
- Claim 26, line 1, please replace, "the machine-readable", to read, "the computer-readable".
- Claim 27, line 1, please replace, "the machine-readable", to read, "the computer-readable".

- Claim 1, line 2, after, "comprising:", please insert, "Using a computer to perform the following actions,
- Claim 18, line 2, after, "comprising:", please insert, "Using a computer to perform the following actions,
- Claim 33, line 2, after, "comprising:", please insert, "Using a computer to perform the following actions,
- Claim 39, line 2, after, "comprising:", please insert, "Using a computer to perform the following actions,
- Claim 48, line 2, after, "comprising:", please insert, "Using a computer to perform the following actions,

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method and apparatus for modifying an image may be applied to heal texture areas within the image. The closest prior art, Peters (USPN 5,715,334), shows a similar system, in which, an image information enhancement technique for processing digital images is presented, wherein enhancement of image detail contrast is accomplished by adding a differential hysteresis pattern to a digital image, the differential hysteresis image processing utilizes the persistence of intensity variations as means for data reduction and image detail contrast enhancement. However, Regarding claims 1,25 and 39, Peters fails to address: "for generating new differential pixel values for the modification region using the differential representation of the image texture region to obtain substantial consistency with the differential representation of the boundary pixels and integrating the new differential pixel values to obtain a modified image"; Regarding claims 18 and 33, Peters fails to address "for performing texture synthesis in differential space using the boundary region to produce a synthesized differential representation for the modification

region and integrating the synthesized differential representation to generate a modified image"; Regarding claims 48 and 57, Peters fails to address: "for applying the rate of change to the modification region and determining new pixel values for the modification region that exhibit the rate of change and that exhibit consistency with boundary pixel values adjacent to the modification region in the original image". These distinct features have been added separately to different independent claims and renders them allowable.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 7:30 am thru 4:00pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh M. Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.
- Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.